

Message Text

SECRET

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44

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W
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R 101255Z SEP 74
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8113
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

S E C R E T TEHRAN 7607

EXDIS

DEPT PLEASE PASS SECDEF AND USCINCEUR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, IR, US
SUBJ: SHAH ON CO-PRODUCTION OF DEFENSE SYSTEMS

REF: TEHRAN 6200

1. IN AUDIENCE SEPTEMBER 10, SHAH EXPRESSED TO AMBASSADOR KEEN DISAPPOINTMENT IN LACK OF USG RESPONSE TO IRANIAN REQUESTS TO CO-PRODUCE WEAPONS SYSTEMS. WITH REFERENCE TO PROPOSAL FOR ASSEMBLY OF MAVERICK MISSILES WHICH WAS RECENTLY PRESENTED BY HUGHES, SHAH SAID IRAN'S PARTICIPATION INVOLVED NOTHING MUCH MORE THAN "PUTTING A FEW SCREWS IN PLACE". HE TERMED THE PROPOSAL "ALMOST INSULTING". SHAH SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED CO-PRODUCTION WITH PRESIDENT NIXON, SECRETARY KISSINGER AND SECRETARY SCHLESINGER. HE WAS SURPRISED THAT DURING THE INTERVENING MONTHS HE HAD NOT A RESPONSE FROM THE USG. HE NOTED SPECIFICALLY THAT HE HAD HEARD NOTHING ON TOW OR DRAGON CO-PRODUCTION.

2. IN THIS CONNECTION SHAH SAID GOI WAS HOLDING DISCUSSIONS WITH A REPRESENTATIVE OF GERMAN FIRM, BOLKOW, WHO WAS PROPOSING MANUFACTURE OF MILAN AND HOT MISSILES IN IRAN. WE HAD HEARD FROM OTHER SOURCES THAT THESE DISCUSSIONS WERE TAKING PLACE.

3. SHAH AND IRANINA MILITARY LEADERS HAVE CLEAR PREFERENCE FOR CO-PRODUCTION OF US WEAPONS SYSTEMS, BUT WE ARE TESTING THEIR

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LOYALTY TO OUR PRODUCTS BY OUR CONTINUING DELAY IN RESPONDING TO

SPECIFIC IRANIAN REQUESTS. WE EARNESTLY HOPE THAT WE WILL HAVE
SOMETHING CONCRETE AND POSITIVE TO SAY TO THE GOI ON THIS ISSUE
VERY SOON.
HELMS

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECDEF AND USCINCEUR.

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NNN

Message Attributes

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